Press release

MONET's touch keeps landscapes peaceful

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Noise nuisance caused by Army exercises on firing ranges will soon be pinpointed and therefore potentially avoided thanks to a new acoustic prediction tool developed by The Met. Office in collaboration with Cambridge University.

The new system, called MONET (Met. Office Noise Evaluation Tool), is currently being evaluated by The Met. Office at Larkhill, close to the Army's Salisbury Plain firing range.

Once approved, the model will provide an analysis of noise levels at different locations, taking into account weather conditions and the local terrain. This will provide information that will enable military exercises to be planned to minimise noise nuisance caused by gunfire and explosions. Using the system, gunners will be able to determine the effect on nearby populated areas of firing different types of ammunition at a particular point.

MONET will take into account a number of conditions that can affect the distance and direction in which noise travels, including wind speed and orientation as well as virtual temperature, which compares the temperature of dry and moist air.

The system will be used at Met. Office installations serving Army and DERA ranges around the country. In addition to using complex scientific techniques, MONET is user-friendly and provides an easy-to-understand graphical output.

Scientists also predict that it may be possible to use this technology in real battle situations. Used in reverse, MONET could be used to pinpoint the precise source of enemy fire or to locate aircraft.

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